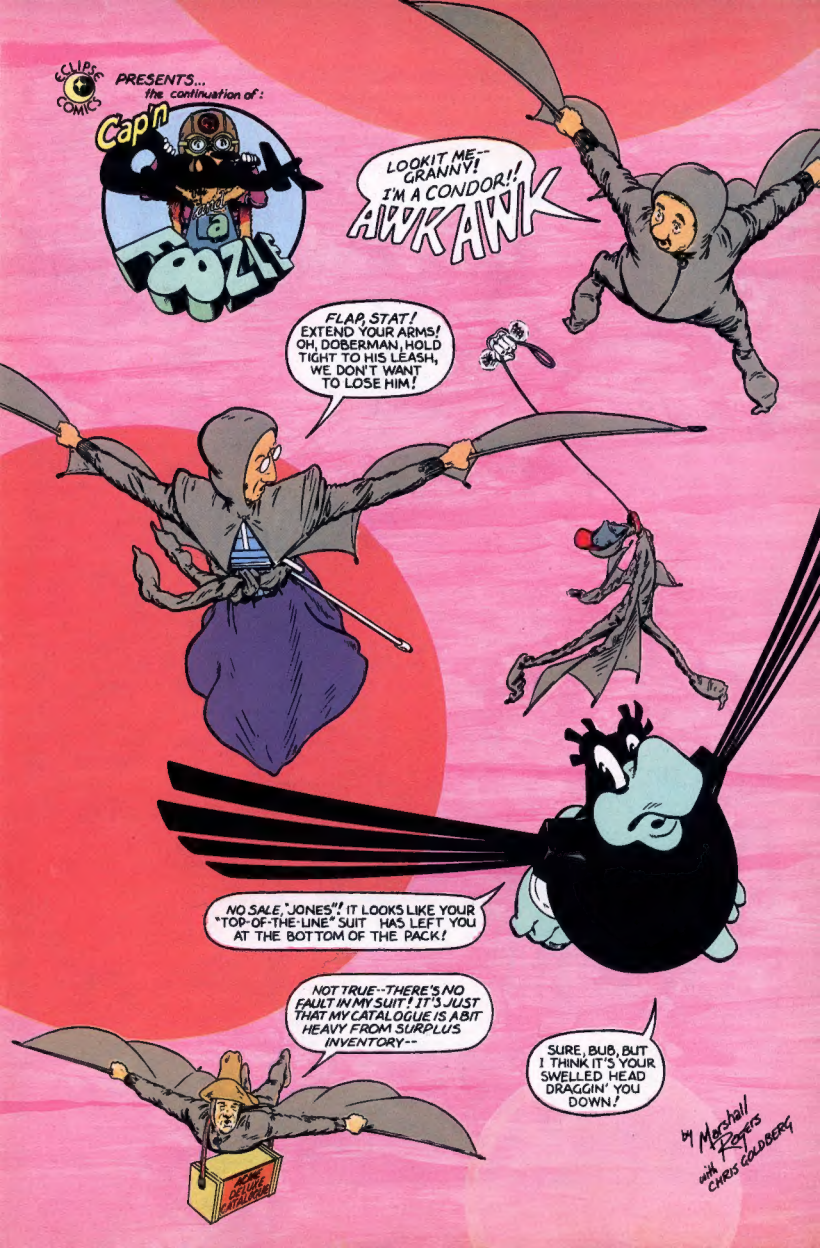
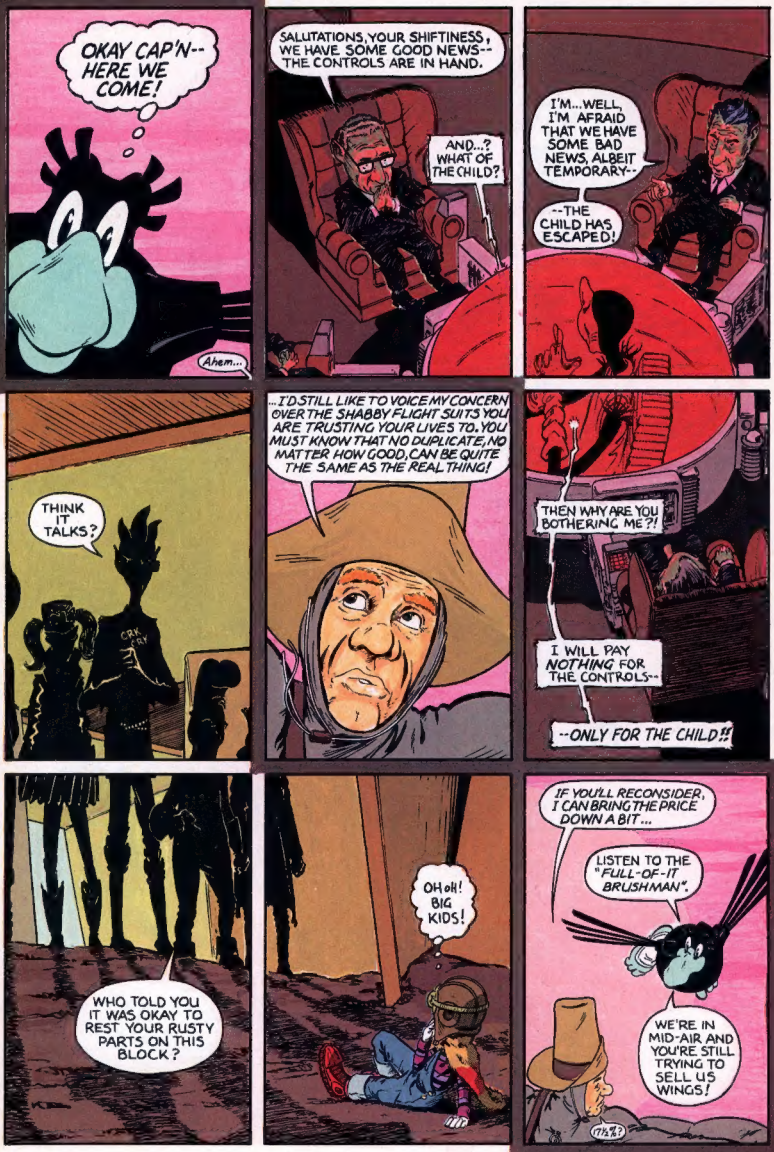
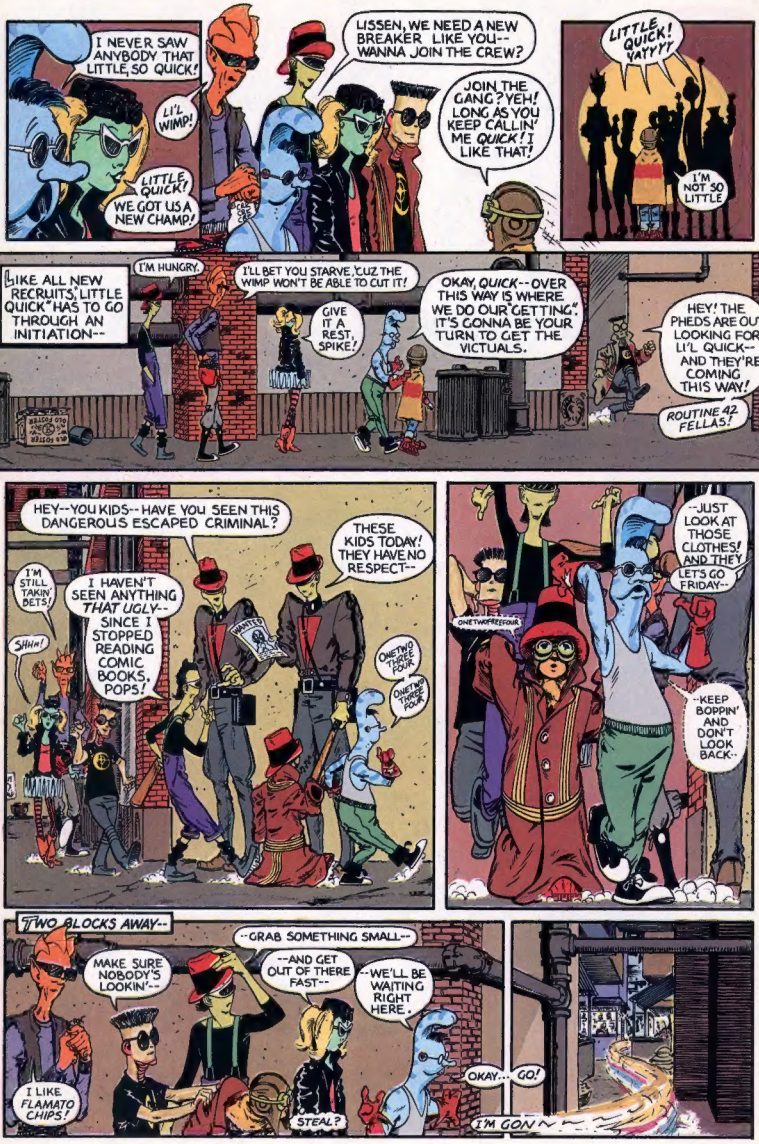

CLIPS COMICS
PRESENTS... the continuation of:
Cap'n Zoom
LOOKIT ME-- GRANNY! I'M A CONDOR!!
AWK AWK
FLAP, STAT! EXTEND YOUR ARMS! OH, DOBERMAN, HOLD TIGHT TO HIS LEASH, WE DON'T WANT TO LOSE HIM!
NO SALE, "JONES"! IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR "TOP-OF-THE-LINE" SUIT HAS LEFT YOU AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PACK!
NOT TRUE--THERE'S NO FAULT IN MY SUIT! IT'S JUST THAT MY CATALOGUE IS A BIT HEAVY FROM SURPLUS INVENTORY--
SURE, BUB, BUT I THINK IT'S YOUR SWELLED HEAD DRAGGIN' YOU DOWN!
DE-LUXE CATALOGUE
by Marshall Rogers with CHRIS GOLDBERG


OKAY CAP'N--HERE WE COME!
Ahem...
SALUTATIONS, YOUR SHIFTINESS, WE HAVE SOME GOOD NEWS--THE CONTROLS ARE IN HAND.
AND...? WHAT OF THE CHILD?
I'M... WELL, I'M AFRAID THAT WE HAVE SOME BAD NEWS, ALBEIT TEMPORARY--
--THE CHILD HAS ESCAPED!
THINK IT TALKS?
...I'D STILL LIKE TO VOICE MY CONCERN OVER THE SHABBY FLIGHT SUITS YOU ARE TRUSTING YOUR LIVES TO. YOU MUST KNOW THAT NO DUPLICATE, NO MATTER HOW GOOD, CAN BE QUITE THE SAME AS THE REAL THING!
THEN WHY ARE YOU BOTHERING ME?!
I WILL PAY NOTHING FOR THE CONTROLS--
--ONLY FOR THE CHILD!!
WHO TOLD YOU IT WAS OKAY TO REST YOUR RUSTY PARTS ON THIS BLOCK?
OH oh! BIG KIDS!
IF YOU'LL RECONSIDER, I CAN BRING THE PRICE DOWN A BIT ...
LISTEN TO THE "FULL-OF-IT BRUSHMAN".
WE'RE IN MID-AIR AND YOU'RE STILL TRYING TO SELL US WINGS!
?!?%?!

THE KID IS IN THAT CITY--ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS FIND OUT WHERE.
I DIDN'T REALIZE THE PLACE WAS SO BIG! IT'S STILL CUBILES AWAY!
HEY, UP THERE! DON'T FORGET ME!
CHECK OUT THE PIGEONS AT TEN-THIRTY. THEY MUST THINK WE'RE ASLEEP!
CHECK! WE'LL TRACK THEM TO LANDING--THEN PICK THEM UP!
WHILE DOWN BELOW IN THE UNDERSIDE OF TOWN--
THIS IS DARKLYDALE DANCER TURF, DINK! YOU GOT THE CREDITS TO BUY YOUR WALKING PERMIT?
I HAVE A NICKEL...
WHAT'S A NIKKLE? MY MAN'S TALKIN' 'BOUT CREDITS, AZZO, CREDITS!
I LIKE THOSE SNEAKERS! LET'S TAKE 'EM!
NO!! YOU WON'T LIKE 'EM! THEY'RE WEIRD! I DON'T LIKE 'EM, BUT I NEED 'EM! BESIDES, YOU GOT NO RIGHT!

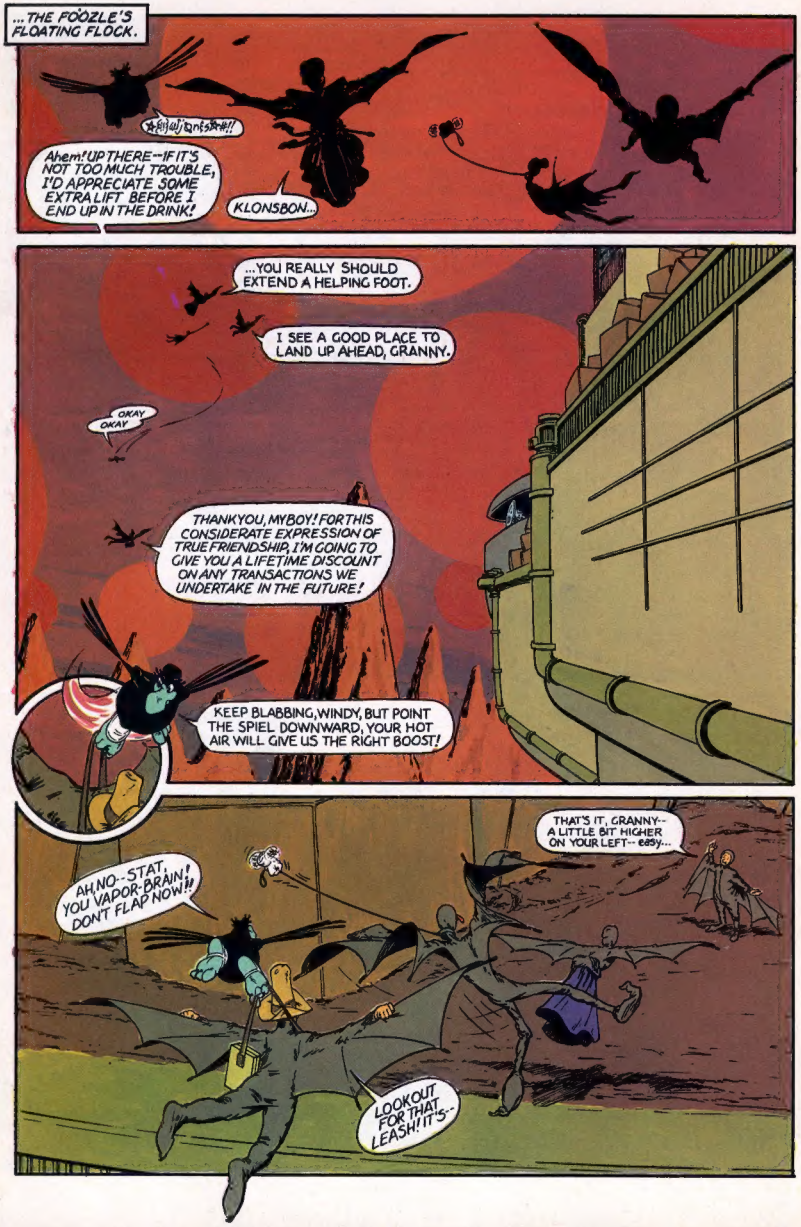
I GOT THIS RIGHT! WANNA ARGUE WITH IT?
N-n-no
THEN GET READY TO BREAK. WINNER GETS THE SNEAKERS! ...AND I ALWAYS WIN!
BREAK?! WATTA YA GONNA BREAK?
YOU GET STUPIDER EVERYTIME YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH! JUST STAND BACK--
--AND WATCH REAL GOOD, IF YOU WANT TO KEEP THE SHOES.
ME-ME-ME-MEMEEE
RAP IT DOWN PEOPLE--
♫♪♫♪DOWN IN DARKLYDALE-♫
♫--WHERE THE LIGHT IS PALE-♫
♫-WE POP AND WE BREAK ♪AND WE NEVER FAIL♪!♫
♫♪ THE SINGERS RAP-♫
♫-AND THE DANCERS CLAP-♫
♫- WE CREATE THE SOUND-♫
♫--AND THEN SPIN DOWN♪!♫
♫♪WELL THOSE OTHER CREWS/DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO-♫
♫-WHEN THEY SEE US COMING-♫
THAT'S IT, DINK, YOUR TURN -- OR YOU CAN JUST GIVE OVER THE SNEAKS NOW!
HOLY SUMBARINES! HOW CAN I SP--
♫-IT'S TOODLE--OO♫!♫
OH, I AM GOOD!
NOT AGAIN--
GONNA BE--
SICK IF I DON'T STOP!--
Oh I am sick
WHOA--
HOW DID... I MEAN, I THOUGHT YOU SAID... BUT... BU...
awesome

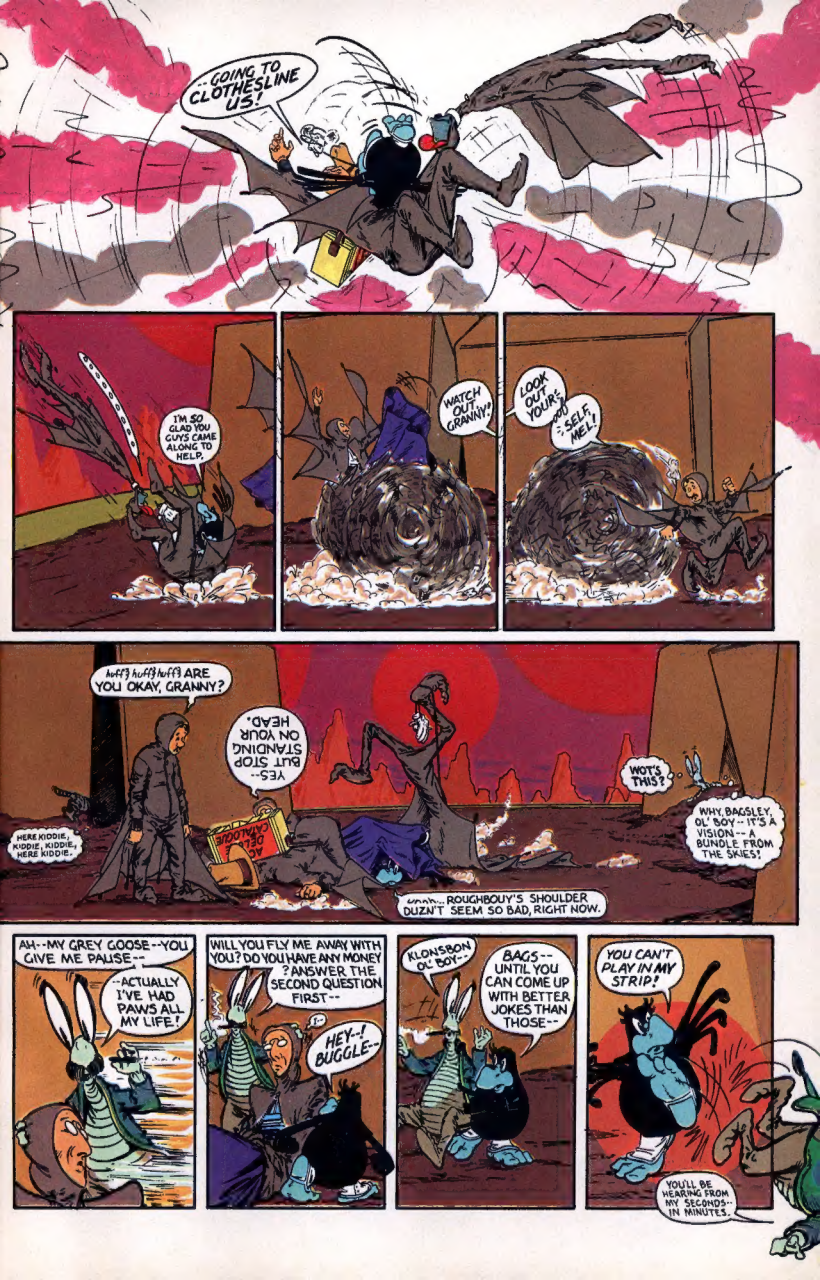

I NEVER SAW ANYBODY THAT LITTLE, SO QUICK!
LI'L WIMP!
LITTLE QUICK! WE GOT US A NEW CHAMP!
LISSEN, WE NEED A NEW BREAKER LIKE YOU-- WANNA JOIN THE CREW?
JOIN THE GANG? YEH! LONG AS YOU KEEP CALLIN' ME QUICK! I LIKE THAT!
LITTLE QUICK! YAYYY!
I'M NOT SO LITTLE
LIKE ALL NEW RECRUITS, "LITTLE QUICK" HAS TO GO THROUGH AN INITIATION--
I'M HUNGRY.
I'LL BET YOU STARVE, 'CUZ THE WIMP WON'T BE ABLE TO CUT IT!
GIVE IT A REST, SPIKE!
OKAY, QUICK-- OVER THIS WAY IS WHERE WE DO OUR "GETTING". IT'S GONNA BE YOUR TURN TO GET THE VICTUALS.
HEY! THE PHEDS ARE OUT LOOKING FOR LI'L QUICK-- AND THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY!
ROUTINE 42, FELLAS!
HEY-- YOU KIDS-- HAVE YOU SEEN THIS DANGEROUS ESCAPED CRIMINAL?
THESE KIDS TODAY! THEY HAVE NO RESPECT--
I'M STILL TAKIN' DETS!
I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING THAT UGLY-- SINCE I STOPPED READING COMIC BOOKS, POPS!
WANTED
ONE TWO THREE FOUR
ONE TWO THREE FOUR
SHIN!
ONETWOTHREEFOUR
--JUST LOOK AT THOSE CLOTHES! AND THEY LET'S GO FRIDAY--
--KEEP BOPPIN' AND DON'T LOOK BACK--
TWO BLOCKS AWAY--
--GRAB SOMETHING SMALL--
MAKE SURE NOBODY'S LOOKIN'--
--AND GET OUT OF THERE FAST--
--WE'LL BE WAITING RIGHT HERE.
I LIKE FLAMATO CHIPS!
STEAL?
OKAY... GO!
I'M GON

MI CHESUS! IT STOLTE MI CHESUS!!
FRESH TODAY
Flamato Chips
I'VE HEARD OF RUNAWAY INFLATION-- BUT THIS IS RIDICULOUS!
ORRIET! BRING THE CRYPTO-SPRAY, THE SUPER BUGS ARE BACK!!
OKAY HAZIE!

DAZ IT, DINK! YOUR DROPPING THE CHIPS!
HI I'M BACK
ALREADY?
LOOK AT THAT LOAD!
awesome
WOW! HOW ABOUT ANOTHER RUN?
50° CHANGE

THIS HOVEL IS WHERE THE HEART IS-- AND THAT MAKES IT HOME.
THIS'SA NEAT CLUBHOUSE.
WHAT TIME DO YOU HAVE TO GO HOME?
WE LIVE HERE--
--SINCE WE BROKE OUTTA THE URCHINAGE--
IF YOU'RE STAYIN' WITH US--IT'S TOP BUNK FOR YOU!
--BUT WE DON'T TALK ABOUT THAT ANYMORE!
AND SO--WE LEAVE 'LITTLE "QUICK" FOR THE NONCE, TO TURN TO...


...THE FOOZLE'S FLOATING FLOCK.
#@!&!/ Rnk#@!!
Ahem! UP THERE--IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE, I'D APPRECIATE SOME EXTRA LIFT BEFORE I END UP IN THE DRINK!
KLONSBON..
...YOU REALLY SHOULD EXTEND A HELPING FOOT.
I SEE A GOOD PLACE TO LAND UP AHEAD, GRANNY.
OKAY OKAY
THANKYOU, MYBOY! FOR THIS CONSIDERATE EXPRESSION OF TRUE FRIENDSHIP, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A LIFETIME DISCOUNT ON ANY TRANSACTIONS WE UNDERTAKE IN THE FUTURE!
KEEP BLABBING, WINDY, BUT POINT THE SPIEL DOWNWARD, YOUR HOT AIR WILL GIVE US THE RIGHT BOOST!
THAT'S IT, GRANNY-- A LITTLE BIT HIGHER ON YOUR LEFT-- easy...
AH, NO--STAT, YOU VAPOR-BRAIN! DON'T FLAP NOW!!
LOOKOUT FOR THAT LEASH! IT'S--


--GOING TO CLOTHESLINE US!
I'M SO GLAD YOU GUYS CAME ALONG TO HELP.
WATCH OUT, GRANNY!
LOOK OUT, YOURS--OOO--SELF, ME!
huff? huff? huff? ARE YOU OKAY, GRANNY?
YES-- BUT STOP STANDING ON YOUR HEAD.
HERE KIDDIE, KIDDIE, KIDDIE, HERE KIDDIE.
WOT'S THIS?
WHY, BAGSLEY OL' BOY-- IT'S A VISION-- A BUNDLE FROM THE SKIES!
...ROUGHBOUY'S SHOULDER DUZN'T SEEM SO BAD, RIGHT NOW.
AH--MY GREY GOOSE--YOU GIVE ME PAUSE--
--ACTUALLY I'VE HAD PAWS ALL MY LIFE!
WILL YOU FLY ME AWAY WITH YOU? DO YOU HAVE ANY MONEY ? ANSWER THE SECOND QUESTION FIRST--
HEY--! BUGGLE--
KLONSBON OL' BOY--
BAGS-- UNTIL YOU CAN COME UP WITH BETTER JOKES THAN THOSE--
YOU CAN'T PLAY IN MY STRIP!
YOU'LL BE HEARING FROM MY SECONDS-- IN MINUTES--

I THINK WE'VE BLOWN IT, FOLKS!
NOBODY MOVE-YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE TRANSFERRED!
transferred?...
THAT'S RIGHT--- LOCK, STOCK & FOOZLE! YOU'LL FIND THE EPIC CONCLUSION IN Cap'n Quick & a Foozle NUMBER ONE. LOOK FOR IT

Notes from Surf City

by Jan & Dean Mullaney

There are Comics, Comics Everywhere!

I'm sure you've noticed, as you peruse the racks at your favorite local comic book emporium, that there are an incredible number of comics being published today; more comics, in fact, and of a wider variety than have been seen in many years.

I'm sure you've also noticed that the sizes, shapes, formats and prices are almost as varied as the contents of those same comics!

What do you think of this "new look" to the comics field? Do you read *every* comic that comes out, or are you selective about what you purchase? If you *are* selective, what criteria do you use in making your picks? Do you buy according to genre, publisher, writer, artist . . .? Does the quality Baxter paper appeal to you more than standard newsprint? Do you like "painted" colors, or the standard comic book coloring? Do you buy more or fewer comics than you did last year?

Some of these questions may seem rudimentary, but we want to know *exactly* what you think of this comics scene. Address all your comments to:

"What I Think of Comics Today"
ECLIPSE COMICS
P. O. Box 199
Guerneville, CA 95446

We'll run an assortment of your letters once we get a representative sampling of your opinions.

She's Still a Ms. Tree to Me

If you're an old Lovin' Spoonful fan, or if you're aware of the pun inherent in Ms. Tree's name, that heading will make sense. If you're not, read it a second time and it should fall into place. If you still don't get it, write me a letter and I'll tell you.

MS. TREE: great reviews . . . and a new hairdo!

Our favorite female private eye has been picking up some mighty nice reviews lately, from Don Thompson's great words in **The Comics Buyer's Guide** saying that **Ms. Tree** gives you more story for your money than most other comics, to notices in fanzines as far away as England.

If you haven't sampled what the critics are clamoring about, you don't know what you're missing. Max Allan Collins and Terry Beatty bring you the best – bar none – continuing private eye in comics, and prove once and for all that you don't need a costume to wipe out crime!

Look for **Ms. Tree**, now elevated to monthly status!

Do You Believe in Magic?

While you're dusting off your old Lovin' Spoonful tunes, we ask the above question. Magic, you see, is an essential part of the current **Sabre** epic by Don McGregor and Billy Graham. It's about the magic, and the joy, of childbirth. Nine months after the touching scene in **Sabre** no. 1, our hero has valiantly fought his way clear 'cross the country to be at Melissa's side. Never mind that The Lounge Lizard, Joyful Slaughter and an entire government battalion are laying in wait! Will Sabre survive? Will Melissa endure? What happens to the baby? Will Deuces and Summer make it to the end? Will Blackstar Blood find the missing Willoughby? Will Willoughby ever find a little magic of his own? There's only one way to find out, folks, and that's by picking up the latest issue of **Sabre** wherein most (although not all) of the above questions are answered.

We're Still Looking for People Who Like to Draw

I don't know if it's due to the rapid growth of the comics industry, or because the unemployment situation is so bad, but the submissions have been pouring in at a remarkable rate. It seems as though one out of every ten people wants to break into comics. If you're one of them, here are a few pointers and suggestions.

While either Dean or cat personally read each submission, you won't get a reply unless you enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. After all, you can't expect us to pay for replying to your employment inquiries! That's rule no. 1: always enclose an SASE.

Rule no. 2 is not to kid yourself. Don't submit anything unless you honestly think you're ready to become a professional cartoonist or writer and can measure up to industry standards. Compare yourself with the people currently working with Eclipse. Can you write as well as Steve Gerber? Can you pencil as well as Will Meugniot? Can you ink as well as Alfredo Alcala? If so, *please*, send us something right now! If you can't, then you're better off getting more experience before you try to become a working professional.

Rule no. 3 is to always send photocopies, not original art.

Rule no. 4 is for writers: don't get your hopes up. Unless you have an artist in tow, the chances that we can use you are slim. Because our comics are creator-owned, we don't need fill-in writers. We're looking for concepts that have both writer and artist.

That about does it for this month. Next column, we promise to introduce you to everyone in the office! Until then, surf's up!

MANIC MAGIC !

STARTING IN Cap'n Quick & a FOOZLE #1

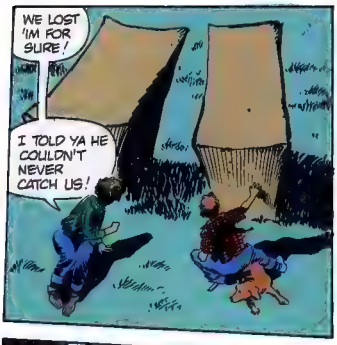
LOOK FOR IT

KITTYCATS AND BOOGEYMEN PART II
by DON McGREGOR - Creator/Writer
GENE COLAN - Artist
KLAUS JANSON - Inker/colorist
ADAM KUBERT - letterer
THOUGHT I COULDN'T CATCH YA, HUH, YOU LITTLE CREEPS?
THOUGHT YOU COULD TORTURE MY GIRL'S CAT... TRY'N DROWN IT, HUH? THOUGHT NOBODY'D WHIP YOUR SKINNY LITTLE BUTTS FOR YOU, HUH?
WELL, JERKS --YOU WERE WRONG!
YOU'RE GONNA GET IT NOW... REALLY GET IT!
C'MON, RANDY! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!

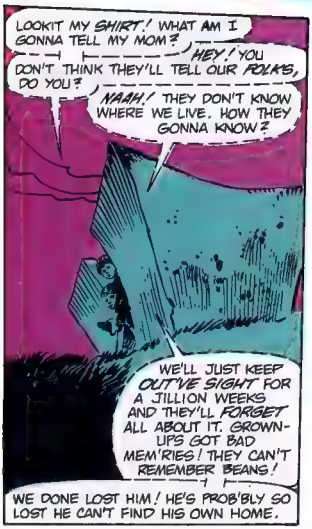
HELLLP!
IT'S THE BOOGEYMAN!
I KNOW IT IS!
RiiiiP
IT AIN'T NO BOOGEYMAN, I'M TELLIN' YA! WHAT'RE YA, SOME KINDA DODO?
CLOP
KLUNK
COME BACK HERE, YOU LITTLE BOOGERS!
SHUT YOUR TRAP! WILL YA? HE CAN HEAR YA ALL THE WAY TO THE BOONIES!
MY KNEE! I BANGED MY KNEE! IT HURTS LIKE ANYTHING!
YEAH, WELL, IF HE GETS YA AGAIN, MORE'N YOUR KNEE'S GONNA HURT, THAT'S THE ONE THING I KNOW!
WE GOTTA GET TO THE STREET. WE CAN CROSS OVER AND GO UP TO THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GROUNDS.
YOU REMEMBER THEM BIG, WEIRD CEMENT THINGS THEY GOT THERE? I THINK THEY USE 'EM TO KNOCK THE BRAINS OUT'VE KIDS THE PRINCIPLE CATCHES DOIN' BAD THINGS.

YEAH, BUT I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO CROSS THE STREET WITHOUT MY MOM. YOU KNOW WHAT *HAPPENED* LAST TIME I DID IT!
I KNOW YOU'RE GONNA GET *KILLED* IN THE *HEAD* IF YOU DON'T.
YEAH, WELL THAT'S JUST ABOUT WHAT *DID* HAPPEN LAST TIME I CROSSED THIS STREET.
OKAY, PARD! HERE WE GO AGAIN! YA GOTTA GET ME OUTTA THIS ONE, YA HEAR ME, *PARD!*
POD? WHO'S POD? YOU MEAN LIKE-A PEA?
SLAP
SLAP
MY *HORSE*, PARD! PARD, FOR PARD'NER, YA KNOW?
I MUST'VE TOLD YOU A *HUNDRED-SCILLION TIMES!* MY HORSE'S NAME IS *PARD!*
SLAP
GIDDAP, PARD! MOVE THEM *LEGS*, BOY!
BOY!
BOOGEYMEN AND INVISIBLE HORSES! I THINK *YOUR* BRAINS ARE ALREADY SQUISHY, RANDY!

STEADY, PARD! THERE'S NUTHIN' TO BE NERVOUS ABOUT.
THESE THINGS ARE STER-RANGE! I'LL BETCHA THEY DO BASH KID'S BRAINS OUT ON THOSE THINGS!
NAH! THAT'S STUPID! THEY DON'T DO NO SUCH THING!
LOOK WHO'S TALKIN'? GUY WHO THINKS THE BOOGEYMAN IS GONNA EAT 'IM FOR BREAK-FAST.

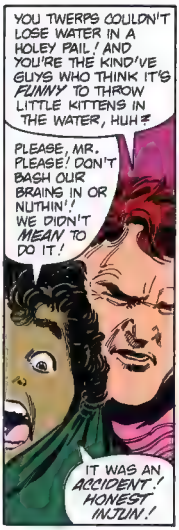

WE LOST 'IM FOR SURE!
I TOLD YA HE COULDN'T NEVER CATCH US!

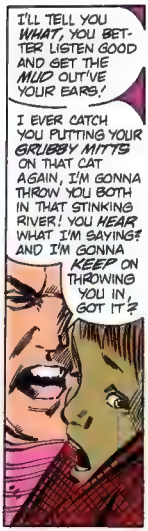
STOP SUCKIN' SNOT UP INTO YOUR BRAIN, THAT'S WHY YOUR BRAIN'S GOIN' ALL SQUISHY ON YA!
SNUUCK
SNIFF


LOOKIT MY SHIRT! WHAT AM I GONNA TELL MY MOM?
HEY! YOU DON'T THINK THEY'LL TELL OUR FOLKS, DO YOU?
NAAH! THEY DON'T KNOW WHERE WE LIVE. HOW THEY GONNA KNOW?
WE'LL JUST KEEP OUTTA SIGHT FOR A JILLION WEEKS AND THEY'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT IT. GROWN-UPS GOT BAD MEM'RIES! THEY CAN'T REMEMBER BEANS!
WE DONE LOST HIM! HE'S PROB'BLY SO LOST HE CAN'T FIND HIS OWN HOME.

TEACH HIM TO MESS WITH...
UUUSSSSS

LOSE ME, HUH?


YOU TWERPS COULDN'T LOSE WATER IN A HOLEY PAIL! AND YOU'RE THE KIND'VE GUYS WHO THINK IT'S FUNNY TO THROW LITTLE KITTENS IN THE WATER, HUH?
PLEASE, MR. PLEASE! DON'T BASH OUR BRAINS IN OR NUTHIN'! WE DIDN'T MEAN TO DO IT!
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! HONEST INJUN!

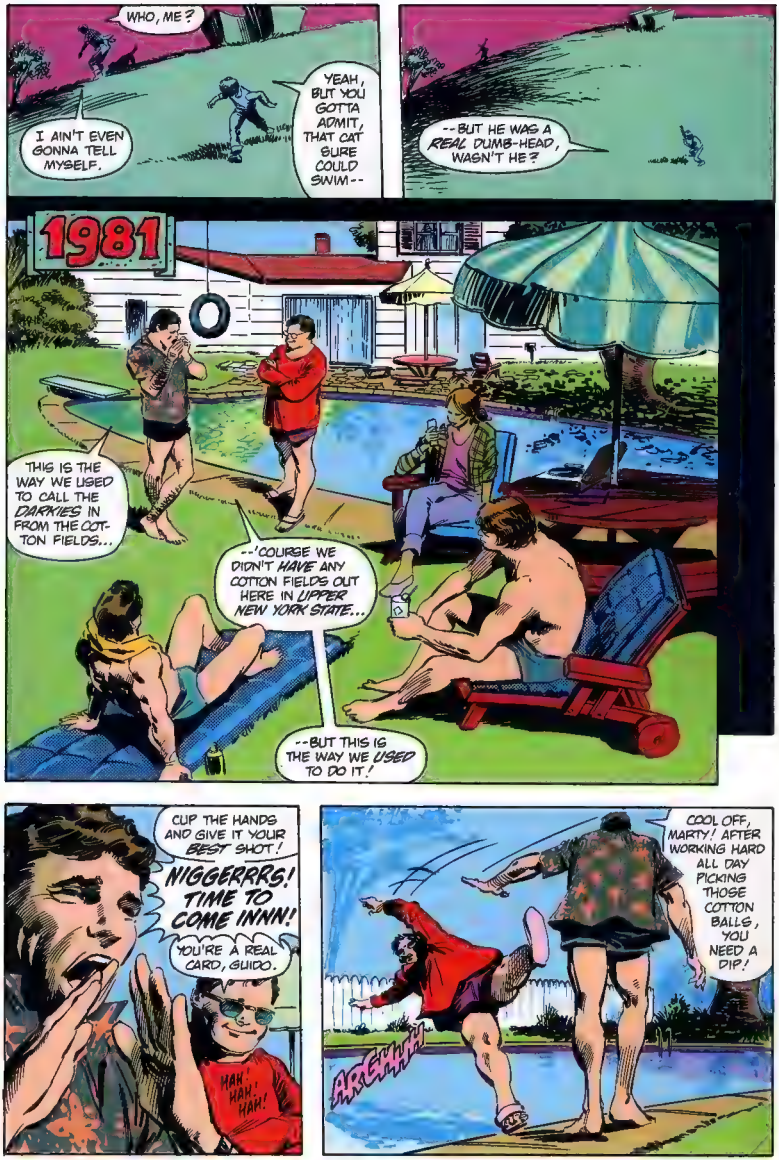

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, YOU BETTER LISTEN GOOD AND GET THE MUD OUT'VE YOUR EARS!
I EVER CATCH YOU PUTTING YOUR GRUBBY MITTS ON THAT CAT AGAIN, I'M GONNA THROW YOU BOTH IN THAT STINKING RIVER! YOU HEAR WHAT I'M SAYING? AND I'M GONNA KEEP ON THROWING YOU IN, GOT IT?

THEN, I'M GONNA STEP ON TOP OF YOUR UGLY HEADS--
--AND KEEP YOU UNDER THERE UNTIL YOU EAT AND SWALLOW ALL THE MUCK ON THE BOTTOM!
I THINK I CAN'T DO IT?
YEAH, ANYTHING! YOU CAN DO ANY-THING!

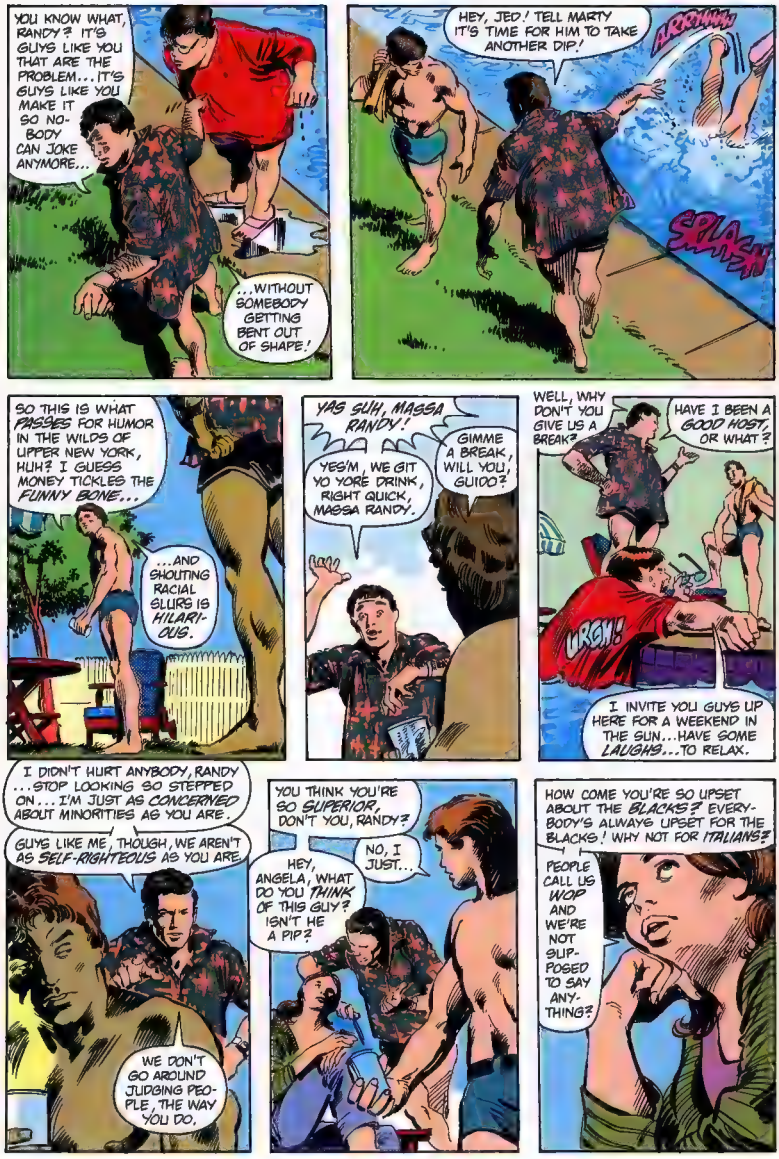
YOU BETTER MEMORIZE EVERYTHING I SAID AND NOT FORGET IT. I AIN'T GIVING YOU NO SECOND CHANCES, YOU GOT IT?
WE GOT IT.

IF EVER HE TELLS MY MOM OR DAD, THEY'LL MURDERLATE ME!
MINE TOO! BUT HE WON'T! HE DON'T KNOW WHERE WE LIVE, REMEMBER?
YEAH, YOU ALSO SAID HE WOULDN'T FIND US!
YEAH, YEAH. I KNOW WHAT I SAID.

ONLY REASON HE FOUND US WAS 'CAUSE YOU WERE WHININ' LIKE A BABY, ELSE HE NEVER WOULD'VE FOUND US,
THINK HE'D'A DONE WHAT HE SAID?
I AIN'T GONNA FIND OUT ...THAT'S FOR SURE!
LISTEN...
I WOULDN'T TELL NOBODY ABOUT THIS.


WHO, ME?
I AIN'T EVEN GONNA TELL MYSELF.
YEAH, BUT YOU GOTTA ADMIT, THAT CAT SURE COULD SWIM--
--BUT HE WAS A REAL DUMB-HEAD, WASN'T HE?
1981
THIS IS THE WAY WE USED TO CALL THE DARKIES IN FROM THE COTTON FIELDS...
--'COURSE WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY COTTON FIELDS OUT HERE IN UPPER NEW YORK STATE...
--BUT THIS IS THE WAY WE USED TO DO IT.
CUP THE HANDS AND GIVE IT YOUR BEST SHOT!
NIGGERRRS! TIME TO COME INNN!
YOU'RE A REAL CARD, GUIDO.
HAH! HAH! HAH!
COOL OFF, MARTY! AFTER WORKING HARD ALL DAY PICKING THOSE COTTON BALLS, YOU NEED A DIP!
AAEEYYYY

YOU GOT A REAL WAY WITH WORDS, MARTY! YOU AD LIB A GREAT DIVE!
GURGLE
HOW DO YOU LIKE MY FOLKS PLACE, RANDY? YOU SEE WHAT MONEY CAN BUY? WIDE OPEN SPACES. SUN. SKY. GREAT, HUH?
YEAH. GREAT.
YOU MEET MY LITTLE SISTER YET? COME ON AND MEET ANGELA!
PUT THOSE LENNON ALBUMS DOWN, ANGELA. I WANT YOU TO MEET RANDY. HE'S A GAME DESIGNER AT THE COMPANY.
YOU NEVER SAW ANYBODY TAKE GAMES AS SERIOUSLY AS THIS GUY! HE LIKES TO FOOL EVERYBODY INTO THINKING HE'S DOING SOMETHING IMPORTANT WHEN HE COMES UP WITH ANOTHER OF HIS COCKAMAMIE GAMES.
RIGHT, RAND, OLD BUDDY? OLD RAND, HE WON'T EVEN LAUGH AT MY JOKES.
WHAT'S ALL THIS STUFF ABOUT DARKIES, GUIDO?
HUH?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THAT BOTHERING YOU, WHAT I YELLED?
UHHH... A BIT....
GEEZ, EVERYBODY'S SO SENSITIVE THESE DAYS.
YOU NOTICE THAT, JED...
MARTY?
I MEAN, LOOK AT THE BIG LIBERAL OVER HERE.


YOU KNOW WHAT, RANDY? IT'S GUYS LIKE YOU THAT ARE THE PROBLEM... IT'S GUYS LIKE YOU MAKE IT SO NOBODY CAN JOKE ANYMORE...
...WITHOUT SOMEBODY GETTING BENT OUT OF SHAPE!
HEY, JED! TELL MARTY IT'S TIME FOR HIM TO TAKE ANOTHER DIP!
AAHHHH
SPLASH
SO THIS IS WHAT PASSES FOR HUMOR IN THE WILDS OF UPPER NEW YORK, HUH? I GUESS MONEY TICKLES THE FUNNY BONE...
...AND SHOUTING RACIAL SLURS IS HILARIOUS.
YAS SUH, MASSA RANDY!
YES'M, WE GIT YO YORE DRINK, RIGHT QUICK, MASSA RANDY.
GIMME A BREAK, WILL YOU, GUIDO?
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE US A BREAK?
HAVE I BEEN A GOOD HOST, OR WHAT?
URGH!
I INVITE YOU GUYS UP HERE FOR A WEEKEND IN THE SUN...HAVE SOME LAUGHS...TO RELAX.
I DIDN'T HURT ANYBODY, RANDY ...STOP LOOKING SO STEEPED ON... I'M JUST AS CONCERNED ABOUT MINORITIES AS YOU ARE.
GUYS LIKE ME, THOUGH, WE AREN'T AS SELF-RIGHTEOUS AS YOU ARE.
WE DON'T GO AROUND JUDGING PEOPLE, THE WAY YOU DO.
YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SUPERIOR, DON'T YOU, RANDY?
NO, I JUST...
HEY, ANGELA, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS GUY? ISN'T HE A PIP?
HOW COME YOU'RE SO UPSET ABOUT THE BLACKS? EVERYBODY'S ALWAYS UPSET FOR THE BLACKS! WHY NOT FOR ITALIANS?
PEOPLE CALL US WOP AND WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO SAY ANYTHING?

YOU KNOW, IT WAS THE ITALIANS WHO CAME TO NEW YORK CITY AND BUILT THE SUBWAYS. THAT'S TRUE, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP.
WELL, THERE WERE OTHERS WHO HEL...
IF THE BLACKS OR THE PUERTO RICANS HAD COME TO THE CITY FIRST I'LL BET THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY TRAINS AT ALL.
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT, ANGELA?
YOU DON'T REALLY BELIEVE THAT?
ITALIANS GET NO CREDIT. NOBODY STICKS UP FOR US. ON TV, THEY MAKE IT LOOK LIKE ALL ITALIANS ARE MAFIA PEOPLE, OR SOMETHING.
WELL, ANGELA...
...THAT'S ANOTHER ...PEOPLE SHOULDN'T DO THAT, EITHER... I MEAN, THERE'S...WELL, GOOD AND BAD IN ALL RACES, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
OH, BOY! LISTEN TO THIS CRAP, WILL YOU?
HOW COME YOU DON'T FIGHT FOR ITALIANS? OR WOMEN? YOU KNOW WHAT JOHN LENNON SAID, HE SAID "WOMEN WAS THE NIGGER OF THE WORLD." HE WAS RIGHT.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, ANGELA? YOU'RE HOW OLD? 11? 12? YOU CAN'T BE THAT BITTER YET, CAN YOU?
WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE TO BE SO BITTER ABOUT?
YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION. NOBODY ANSWERS A KID'S QUESTIONS. NOBODY LISTENS TO THEM, EITHER.
YOU WON'T ADMIT HOW HARD ITALIANS WORKED.
I NEVER SAID THEY DIDN'T.
STOP PICKING ON THE KID, RANDY! YOU'RE GOING TO GET HER ALL RILED UP!
GUIDO, YOU HEARD HIM!

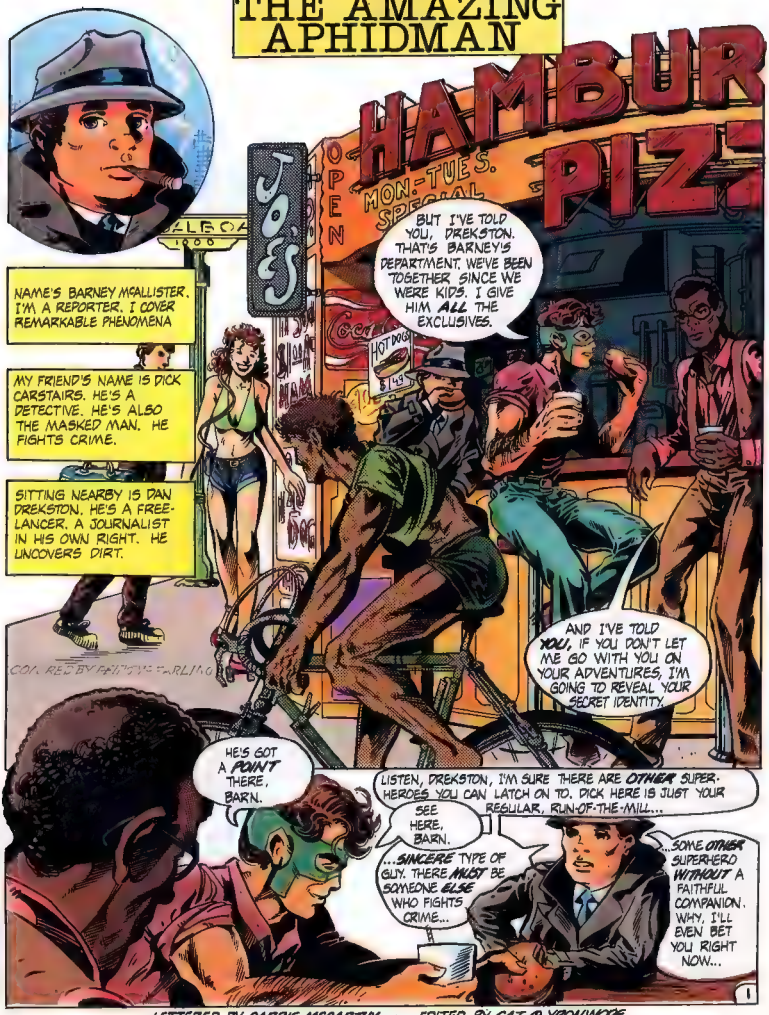
I LISTENED TO YOU, ANGELA... AND IT HURTS ME. I KNOW I SHOULDN'T SAY THIS... IT ISN'T THE... THE SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE THING TO DO... BUT...
...I KEEP HOPING THAT THE KIDS COMING ALONG NOW WILL HAVE LESS HATE THAN THE KIDS BEFORE THEM... BUT I JUST... DON'T SEE IT... HAPPENING.
LIGHTEN UP, RANDY. WHY DON'T YOU GIVE A HEARTY YELL FOR THE DARKIES, IT'LL LOOSEN YOU UP!
I KNOW THE OLD MAXIM, "WHEN IN ROME DO AS THE ROMANS DO"...
YEA, ROME!
BUT THAT'S BULL-SHIT.
I ALSO KNOW THAT BECAUSE I'M WHITE AND AMONG MY OWN KIND (SIC) YOU THINK ANY RACIST THING YOU SAY...
...WILL BE GREETED WITH ACCEPTANCE--
--AND ANYBODY WHO DOESN'T, ISN'T GOING TO WIN ANY FRIENDS.
BUT SOMETIMES... YOU CAN'T STAY ON THE SIDELINES, SAYING NOTHING.
SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO SPEAK... TAKE A STAND! IT'S TAKEN ME YEARS TO LEARN THAT.
TOO MANY PEOPLE BLED OR DIED, TRYING JUST TO BE FREE, FOR ME TO ACT LIKE IT'S JUST A JOKE.
AND YOU SAY YOU'RE NOT HURTING ANYONE... EXCEPT FOR A 12-YEAR-OLD... WHO'S GROWING UP, BELIEVING WHAT SHE HEARS.
I THINK I'D BETTER GO NOW.
DON'T BOTHER SEEING ME TO THE DOOR...
...I CAN FIND MY OWN WAY OUT.
WOULD YOU GET A LOAD OF HIM?
JESUS! WHAT A JERK!
HEY, MARTY! GUESS WHAT!
TIME TO TAKE ANOTHER DIP!
AAAUGHHHH!!!
SPLASH
END

MM1006
FROM THE WRITINGS OF BARNEY McALLISTER:

The MASKED MAN

BY B.C.BOYER

THE AMAZING APHIDMAN


NAME'S BARNEY MCALLISTER. I'M A REPORTER. I COVER REMARKABLE PHENOMENA
MY FRIEND'S NAME IS DICK CARSTAIRS. HE'S A DETECTIVE. HE'S ALSO THE MASKED MAN. HE FIGHTS CRIME.
SITTING NEARBY IS DAN DREKSTON. HE'S A FREE-LANCER. A JOURNALIST IN HIS OWN RIGHT. HE UNCOVERS DIRT.
BUT I'VE TOLD YOU, DREKSTON. THAT'S BARNEY'S DEPARTMENT. WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE WE WERE KIDS. I GIVE HIM ALL THE EXCLUSIVES.
AND I'VE TOLD YOU, IF YOU DON'T LET ME GO WITH YOU ON YOUR ADVENTURES, I'M GOING TO REVEAL YOUR SECRET IDENTITY.
HE'S GOT A POINT THERE, BARN.
LISTEN, DREKSTON, I'M SURE THERE ARE OTHER SUPER-HEROES YOU CAN LATCH ON TO. DICK HERE IS JUST YOUR REGULAR, RUN-OF-THE-MILL...
SEE HERE, BARN.
...SINCERE TYPE OF GUY. THERE MUST BE SOMEONE ELSE WHO FIGHTS CRIME...
...SOME OTHER SUPERHERO WITHOUT A FAITHFUL COMPANION. WHY, I'LL EVEN BET YOU RIGHT NOW...
HAMBUR
PIZ
OPEN
JOE'S
MON-TUES.
HOT DOGS
$1.45

LETTERED BY CARRIE McCARTHY • EDITED BY CAT & YRON MOORE

"SOMEWHERE IN OUR FAIR CITY...SOMEONE'S HAVING AN **ORIGIN!**"

A MILD MANNERED STUDENT OF FOREST MOUNTAIN HIGH CASUALLY GLANCES OVER TO DIZ. HE KNOWS DEEP WITHIN HIS HEART SHE HAS BEEN LUSTING AFTER HIM DAY AND NIGHT. HE GIVES HER A WRY SMILE. SUDDENLY HER HEART SKIPS A BEAT.

WHAT'S THAT TURD LOOKING AT **ME** FOR?

HEY, PERCY! **QUIT** CHECKIN' OUT THE CHICKS! YOU'RE SUCH A **BOOKWORM** YOU'LL **NEVER** GET ONE ANYWAY! **HA! HA! HA!**

HE IGNORES DASH THOMPSON'S COMMENT. HE KNOWS DASH IS SIMPLY **JEALOUS** OF HIS **GENIUS.**

HEY, BOOKWORM! YOU STUCK **UP** OR SOMETHING?! **LOOK** AT ME WHEN I TALK TO YOU!!

DASH IS GETTING NERVOUS. HE'S AFRAID PERCY MAY LASH OUT AT HIM AT ANY **MOMENT.**

ALRIGHT! IF YOU AIN'T GONNA TALK, THEN I'M GONNA **PUNCH** SOME **SENSE** INTO YA!!

POW!

C'MON, PERCY! C'MON!

DASH IS NOW ON THE VERGE OF HYSTERIA. HE'S AFRAID PERCY MIGHT THROW HIS FACE AT HIS **FIST** AGAIN.

BUT PERCY DOESN'T CARE. HE FEELS IT'S ABOUT TIME HE TEACHES DASH A LESSON.

SUDDENLY, HE FINDS HIS KILLER INSTINCT **RUSHING** TO THE FORE.

HE CAN NO LONGER **CONTROL** HIMSELF.

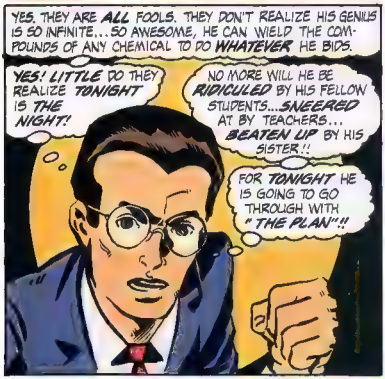
BUT THEN, JUST AS SUDDENLY, HE FINDS A STREAK OF MERCY. SO, INSTEAD OF KILLING DASH, HE PRETENDS TO MISS HIM COMPLETELY.

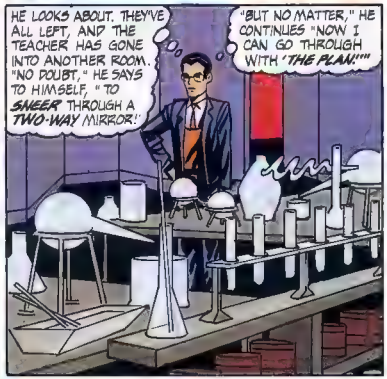
GAAA!

HA! HA!

RRRING!
ALRIGHT! SCHOOL'S OUT! LET'S GO, EVERYBODY.
EXCEPT PERCY. HE'S SUCH A BOOKWORM, HE'LL PROBABLY STAY HERE 'N STUDY!
YEAH: A REAL BOOKWORM!
THEY ARE ALL JEALOUS OF HIS GENIUS.

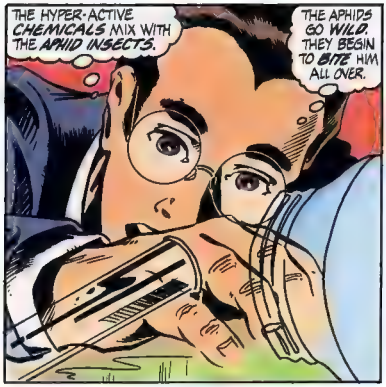
EVEN DIZ.
WHO EVEN NOW DANGLES HER TONGUE OUT IN PURE UNADULTURATED LUST...
YEARNING, NOT ONLY FOR HIS BODY, BUT FOR HIS MIND AS WELL.


YES. THEY ARE ALL FOOLS. THEY DON'T REALIZE HIS GENIUS IS SO INFINITE... SO AWESOME, HE CAN WIELD THE COMPOUNDS OF ANY CHEMICAL TO DO WHATEVER HE BIDS.
YES! LITTLE DO THEY REALIZE TONIGHT IS THE NIGHT!
NO MORE WILL HE BE RIDICULED BY HIS FELLOW STUDENTS...SNEERED AT BY TEACHERS... BEATEN UP BY HIS SISTER!!
FOR TONIGHT HE IS GOING TO GO THROUGH WITH "THE PLAN"!!


HE LOOKS ABOUT. THEY'VE ALL LEFT, AND THE TEACHER HAS GONE INTO ANOTHER ROOM. "NO DOUBT," HE SAYS TO HIMSELF, "TO SNEER THROUGH A TWO-WAY MIRROR!"
"BUT NO MATTER," HE CONTINUES "NOW I CAN GO THROUGH WITH 'THE PLAN!'"

HE WALKS OVER TO HIS TABLE.
HE TAKES THE CHEMICALS HE HAS BEEN HOARDING AND MIXES THEM WITH SOME OTHERS.
THEY BEGIN TO REACT. "GOOD," HE MUTTERS. "THE PLAN' IS WORKING PERFECTLY."

SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING, HE TRIPS OVER A JAR OF APHIDS.
HE AND HIS SECRET FORMULA FALL ON TOP OF THEM.


THE HYPER-ACTIVE CHEMICALS MIX WITH THE APHID INSECTS.
THE APHIDS GO WILD. THEY BEGIN TO BITE HIM ALL OVER.

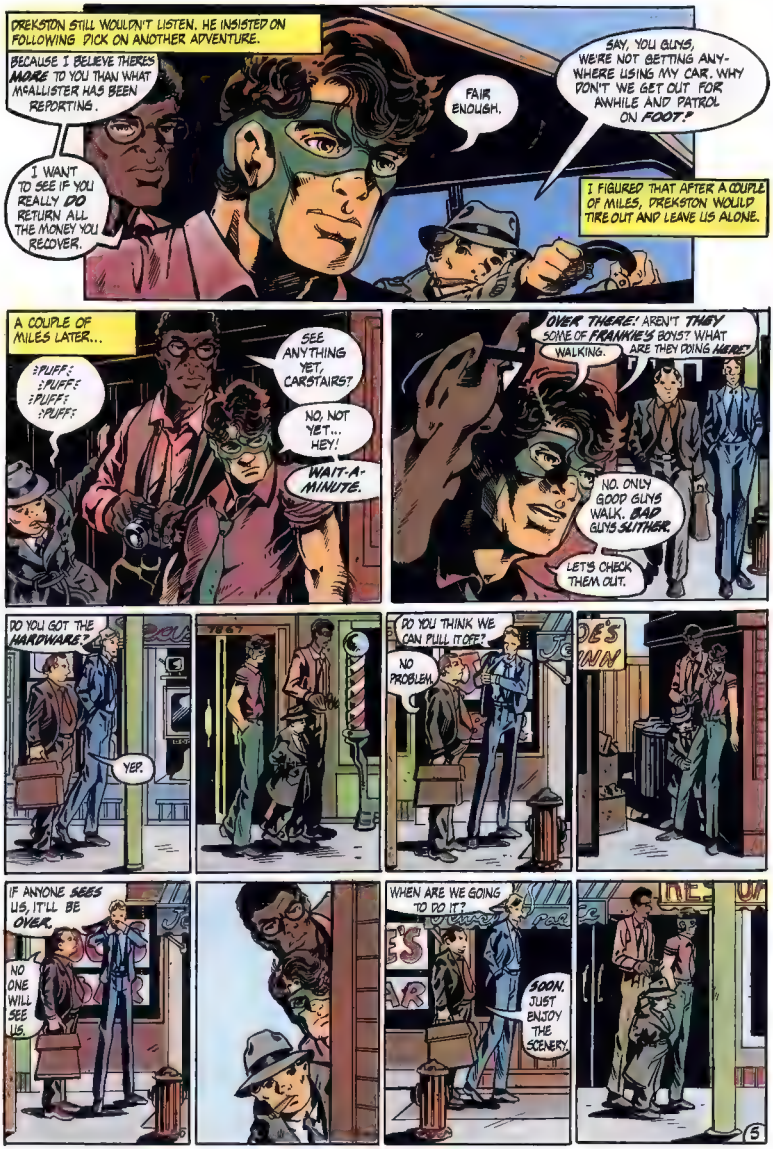
SUDDENLY, PERCY STARTS FEELING STRANGE THINGS HAPPENING TO HIS BODY.
SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH
POWERS BEYOND THOSE OF MORTAL MEN BEGIN TO FLOW THROUGH HIS VEINS.

NO MORE WILL MY FRIENDS RIDICULE ME!!!
NO MORE WILL I BE PUT DOWN BY MY PARENTS!!

BECAUSE NOW I CAN BEND STEEL WITH MY BARE HANDS!! LEAP TALL BUILDINGS AT A SINGLE BOUND!!!
FOR NOW I AM...

APHIDMAN!

PLOP!

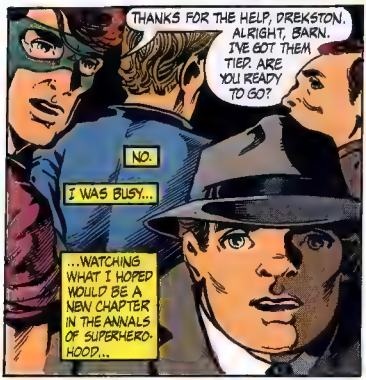

DREKSTON STILL WOULDN'T LISTEN. HE INSISTED ON FOLLOWING DICK ON ANOTHER ADVENTURE.
BECAUSE I BELIEVE THERE'S MORE TO YOU THAN WHAT MCALLISTER HAS BEEN REPORTING.
I WANT TO SEE IF YOU REALLY DO RETURN ALL THE MONEY YOU RECOVER.
FAIR ENOUGH.
SAY, YOU GUYS, WE'RE NOT GETTING ANYWHERE USING MY CAR. WHY DON'T WE GET OUT FOR AWHILE AND PATROL ON FOOT?
I FIGURED THAT AFTER A COUPLE OF MILES, DREKSTON WOULD TIRE OUT AND LEAVE US ALONE.
A COUPLE OF MILES LATER...
:PUFF: :PUFF: :PUFF: :PUFF:
SEE ANYTHING YET, CARSTAIRS?
NO, NOT YET... HEY!
WAIT-A-MINUTE.
OVER THERE! AREN'T THEY SOME OF FRANKIE'S BOYS? WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?
WALKING.
NO. ONLY GOOD GUYS WALK. BAD GUYS SLITHER.
LET'S CHECK THEM OUT.
DO YOU GOT THE HARDWARE?
YEP.
DO YOU THINK WE CAN PULL IT OFF?
NO PROBLEM.
IF ANYONE SEES US, IT'LL BE OVER.
NO ONE WILL SEE US.
WHEN ARE WE GOING TO DO IT?
SOON. JUST ENJOY THE SCENERY.
5

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?
I DON'T KNOW.
A DROP PERHAPS?
YES-- FRANKIE DEALS WITH COCAINE.
MAYBE THEY'RE GOING TO DROP A STASH WITH SOMEONE.
GOOD THINKING, DREKSTON.
JUST A WILD GUESS.
WE'LL CHECK OUT EVERYONE THEY COME IN CONTACT WITH.
HERE YA GO, PETE.
THANKS, MAX.
HEY, ELMO.
YO, MAX.

YES. WE ARE BORING AREN'T WE, DREKSTON? WHY DON'T YOU FIND ANOTHER CRIMEFIGHTER? WHY I'LL BET YOU RIGHT NOW ...SOMEWHERE IN OUR FAIR CITY, THERE'S A SUPERHERO...
JUST ITCHING FOR A FAITHFUL COMPANION, RIGHT?
RIGHT.
THIS ISN'T GETTING US ANY-WHERE. THERE MUST BE MORE TO SUPERHEROHOOD THAN CHASING SLITHERING CROOKS, MOLESTING BLIND MEN AND ATTACKING FRUIT STANDS!!
APHIDMAN SLINKS ALONG A DARK ALLEY, CLUTCHING THE WALL AS HE GOES.
SUDDENLY HE SPOTS A HELPLESS FEMALE WALKING ALONE!
HE STARTS TRAILING HER... MAKING SURE SHE GETS HOME SAFELY.
EEEKK!
SHE SCREAMS! AN EVIL DOER MUST BE NEARBY!
HE RUSHES TO HER SIDE TO INSURE HER SAFETY!
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
WITH HIS MISSION ACCOMPLISHED, APHIDMAN CRAWLS BACK THROUGH THE ALLEY...
ULGGGHH!
CLUTCHING THE GROUND AS HE GOES!
WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO PULL IT OFF?
PRETTY SOON.
DID YOU BRING YOUR GUN?
OF COURSE.
THIS DARK ALLEY WILL DO.
HOW MUCH LONGER?

ALRIGHT! THIS IS IT! THEY'RE DUCKING DOWN THAT SINISTER ALLEY!
LET'S GET 'EM!!
APHIDMAN STARTS PATROLLING THE...
OMIGOSH! IT'S THE MASKED MAN! WOW! TWO OF US SUPERHEROES ON THE SAME BLOCK!
"THIS IS NEAT," HE CONTINUES, "JUST LIKE IN THE COMIC BOOKS."
FIRST WE'LL MEET... THEN HAVE A MISUNDERSTANDING... AND THEN... AFTER WE THROW A COUPLE OF PUNCHES... WE'LL JOIN FORCES!"
C'MON, JAKO! GET THE PENNY, NOW... GET THE PENNY.
OOH! OOH! EEE! AHH! OOO! OOO!
ALRIGHT, YOU GUYS! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!
OH NO! SOMEONE HAS SEEN US!
QUICK! KILL THEM BEFORE THEY TELL!
BLAM! BLAM!
GET DOWN! BOTH OF YOU I'LL HANDLE THIS!!
NO! I'VE GOT TO GET SOME PICTURES!
NO DREKSTON! WAIT!
I WAS ABOUT TO STOP HIM, BUT FROZE IN MY TRACKS WHEN I SAW WHAT WAS STANDING ON A NEARBY LEDGE.
ANOTHER SUPERHERO.
WAS HE THE ONE I HAVE BEEN WANTING ...HOPING FOR ALL THIS TIME?
WAS HE THE STRONGWILLED RESILIENT CRIMEFIGHTER WELL WORTHY OF THE JOURNALISTIC INTEGRITY OF DAN DREKSTON?

HIII-YAA!
PLOP!
GSAAAA!
WHOOSH!
THUMP!
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
CLICK! CLICK! CLICK! CLICK! CLICK! CLICK!
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
CLICK!
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
WHACK
9


THANKS FOR THE HELP, DREKSTON. ALRIGHT, BARN. I'VE GOT THEM TIED. ARE YOU READY TO GO?
NO.
I WAS BUSY...
...WATCHING WHAT I HOPED WOULD BE A NEW CHAPTER IN THE ANNALS OF SUPERHERO-HOOD...

...HOPING I WOULD SEE THE UNITING OF A NAIVE YET SINCERE CRIMEFIGHTER WITH A JOURNALISTIC VETERAN WHO COULD SERVE AS HIS BIOGRAPHER AND GUIDING LIGHT. IT WAS A PERFECT UNION. COULD IT BE POSSIBLE?
GEE, MISTER. YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
SO IT SEEMS.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, DREKSTON IS DEFINITELY OVERSTAYING HIS WELCOME.

ECLIPSE COMICS
$1.50 in USA
$1.75 in Canada
4
ECLIPSE™
MONTHLY
HAPPY...
...NEW YEAR!
THIS WASN'T MY IDEA!
16 PAGES

LETTERS TO SURF CITY

Please send your letters to: ECLIPSE COMICS, P. O. Box 199, Guerneville, California 95446

Folks,

Lately, I have found myself getting very bored with the comics offered in this "comic book boom." I just haven't felt like I was getting as much entertainment for my 60 or 75 cents, or $1.00 or $1.25 or $1.50 or $1.75 or $2.00 or $2.50 or $5.95 or . . . .

Then came ECLIPSE MONTHLY. It isn't the best comic book I have ever read, but it is entertaining and is well worth the cover price — though I must confess I can't remember exactly what its cover price is!

When most artists and writers are churning out one mini-series after another to cash in on this "comics boom," the talent displayed in ECLIPSE MONTHLY seems more concerned with producing stories they care about than with money.

I was also very pleased with the variety of stories (there was even a cowboy story!!!). **Rio** was excellent — my favorite this issue — and **Static** was the best story I have read by Ditko in a long time. All of the stories were fun, not to mention good.

Jim McCarter
Box 461
Windfall, IN 46076

Thanks for the kind words, Jim. How about the rest of you out there — would like to see more westerns along the lines of RIO?

Dear Jan, Dean and cat:

A week-and-a-half ago I bounced down to Columbus on a Trailways bus (52 weeks a year and the Greyhound drivers had to pick this week to go on strike!) to see some friends I hadn't seen in a few years. When I got back, my subscription copy of ECLIPSE MONTHLY no. 2 was waiting for me. Not only was it a great way to end the weekend (especially when you consider that Trailways' Dayton bus terminal is in a trailer), but it was well worth the wait.

B. C. Boyer's **Masked Man** series is beginning to take on the overtones of Will Eisner's Spirit, and this latest episode ("Herbie") shows it. This episode was good, but not one of B. C.'s best, I'm afraid. It was slightly overwritten, and the ending could have been better. (I was slightly disappointed that Herbie turned out to be an undercover cop, as I thought he was a great character. This twist could have come off better if it had been written differently, I think.)

Steve Ditko's **Static** is great. Again, I hope Steve has definite plans in mind for this series. Let's see a little more of Fera than reworded versions of "I hate vigilantes." There's a showdown in the offing now that she stole Mac's suit; I hope Steve makes use of this to explore the characters in depth. The artwork, as always, was great — beautifully rendered and detailed, but not overly done. Static definitely has potential.

Cap'n Quick and a Foozle: oh, I love this. I'm still trying to figure it out, but I love it. A wonderful exercise in lunacy. Especially the way Marshall torches the "kid sidekick" concept all to hell. (By the way, who is the mysterious "Goldberg" who co-scripted this story?)

I'm going to wait 'till **Dope** concludes next issue before I comment. Do you mind? Thank you. (Love Orz's letters, tho'.)

The highlight of this issue for me, though, was Doug Wildey's **Rio**. I've always had a passion for western comics (I'm the only guy I know who collects "Kid Colt Outlaw") and I have quite a few Wildey stories from Marvel's western reprints. Which is why I'm glad EM is being printed on Baxter paper. (We're all familiar with the sterling quality of Marvel's mid-70s reprints, aren't we?)

The story was classic. And the ARTWORK! Oh. Oh. Oh. Let the others analyze it. I'm just going to sit back and gaze upon it. Oh. Oh. Oh. It's beautiful!

I am glad to see that **Rio** will be returning in issue 5, and I hope you can make it a regular series here. If you can't give Rio his own book. I won't mind. (I also hope Mr. Wildey will be showing us various parts of Rio's life. I'd like to see a tale about his outlaw days.)

Looking forward to **Ragamuffins** next issue. Also to **Aztec Ace**. Dean, thanx for the prompt reply to my letter, and for the color chart. You don't get this kind of service from the big guns.

Keep pitching 'em and I'll keep catching 'em. Or, as we say down at the ranch, "Every day it's Eclipse!"

Mark Steve Long
2928 117th St.
Toledo, Ohio 43611

P.S. I'm confused. Are you guys working in California or Staten Island? Editorial offices here, business offices there? I don't get it; please clarify. Thank you.

Depends of what "guys" you're referring to, Mark. Jan heads the business office in Staten Island, New York; cat and I (Dean) run the editorial show in Guerneville, California.

You also asked about the mysterious "Goldberg" who works with Marshall. "Goldberg" is Chris Goldberg, and he and Marshall have been friends for five years, at which time they came up with a concept both felt was before its time. When Quick and a Foozle came together, Marshall realized that it was the vehicle for the concept the pair had talked about those five years earlier. So now Chris is collaborating with Marshall on most parts of the entire package.

Dear Dean and cat and whoever else there is,

I'm not quite sure you remember me, but I was the one who was curious about ECLIPSE MONTHLY and DNAgents (what person in their right mind wouldn't be?) when we met at the comics convention this summer. In terms of your wonderful comics, all I can say is thanks for being nice enough to let me see previews of Rio and the like when I purchased ECLIPSE MONTHLY no. 1. That in itself was a very special day. I took it down to Atlantic City with me and enjoyed reading in on the bus.

Ah yes! It went with me to Resorts International, Roy Rogers' Restaurant and every other place I could think of going to. Yes indeed — 'twas a very special day. It also brought me good luck . . . $15.00 worth of good luck. See, people? Comics are magic!

No Name on Letter

ECLIPSE MONTHLY (ISSN 0737-6189) Vol. 1, No. 4, January 1984. Published by Eclipse Enterprises, 81 Delaware Street, Staten Island, NY 10304. Dean Mullaney and catherine yronwode, Editors. Cap'n Quick and A Foozle TM and © 1984 Marshall Rogers. Ragamuffins TM and © 1984 Don McGregor and Gene Colan. The Masked Man TM and © 1984 B. C. Boyer. All other material © 1984 Eclipse Enterprises. The Eclipse Comics logo and colophon are TM Eclipse Enterprises. Price $1.50 per copy. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the characters, persons, or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person, or any institution, is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in Canada.

You're welcome, Nameless One. I guess this is our month for having people reading ECLIPSE MONTHLY on a bus!

Dear People,

ECLIPSE MONTHLY is, all-around, pretty good. I love **Cap'n Quick and a Foozle**. It is one of the funniest and most fun comics in a while. Equally great is **The Masked Man**, which I didn't expect to be very good. It had a good humorous storyline, along with a good serious storyline, which made for excellence.

Rio, on the other hand, is probably going to take me a while to warm up to. Keep it going, though. **Dope** is the one terrible strip in the book. I hate it. I wish you would get rid of it. Finally, **Static** by Steve Ditko needs a little work on the scripting, but Ditko is doing his best work in a long time on the artwork. All in all, a pretty good package for my money.

Randy Paske
656 Birch Lane
Gilbert, MN 55741

Dear Dean and Jan,

Well, we're up to the second issue of the comic book that replaced my favorite comic magazine,so I guess I ought to say something. First off and most obviously, I miss the diversity of the old ECLIPSE MAGAZINE. On a more optimistic train of thought, here's my examination of the strips you chose to include in ECLIPSE MONTHLY:

The Masked Man: this leaves just about every other "costumed hero" strip I know way behind. Some genuine surprises, and some excellent comments on the nature of heroes. Boyer has created a hero who, with Gilbert's "Wraith," stands as the logical successor to that great Will Eisner creation whose name escapes me for a moment . . .

Static: As usual I have mixed feelings about Ditko's strips. On the one hand we have a new moral outlook for a super-hero, and an interesting and intelligent cast. My only real complaints are minor. First of all, I think that Steve should be careful of the type of villains he has Mac fight. The fellow with the arms from the first issue was okay, but now this guy in the exo-skeleton starts making the storyline look too Marvel-ish, gives it too much of the standard super-hero image I would think you are trying to get away from. Also, while the dialog on page 5 was as perceptive as I've come to expect from Ditko, the way it was presented could have been improved. I would suggest that when you are devoting whole pages to talk, you should break up the word balloons a bit and concentrate on showing more through facial angles. Look at panel six on that page as a perfect example of what I think you should avoid.

Cap'n Quick and A Foozle: funny, funny stuff. The scene with Klonsbon's nose had me laughing out loud, and the page where Granny, Mel and Doberman all ganged up on Big Bill was hilarious, ditto the line: "Is that the principal?" Gee, I'm already getting used to these characters. But what does Vaporbrains do?

Rio: this is so much better than what I've come to expect from comic westerns that I'm almost speechless. Keep this, by all means.

Dope: Trina's art looks a lot nicer in color, and I'll be sorry when the strip ends. Keep buying from her in the future, okay?

Michael Norwitz
4949 E. Shaw Butte
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

Thanks for your long and detailed letter, Michael. I'm sorry that I didn't have room to run all of it.

Your point about the excessive dialogue on page 5 of STATIC in issue no. 2 is well taken and brings up a subject of relevance to this comic, all of Eclipse's other books, and to "creator-owned" comics in general. That is, the co-operative nature of independent comics publishing. Eclipse, for example, is the vehicle through which the creator sees his or her work into print. We decide what kinds of stories and art we want to publish, and then work with the creators towards achieving a mutual goal.

It's a good system, an equitable system, one that has rejuvenated the business. I've been asked what happens when Eclipse requests a change in a story and the creator, who actually owns and controls the characters, does not want to make the change. What results is a tricky situation, as you can imagine. We do not believe, like some other publishers, that the creator must submit to our demands. If, after reasonable discussions back and forth, no agreement can be made, then the situation becomes stickier.

That's what happened in the case of STATIC, and is the reason we are no longer publishing Steve's series. Coincidentally enough, the very page 5 you mention was the crux of the problem. Not the only point of disagreement, but the major one. I agreed with you, Michael, that while the "message" was important to the series' concept, it was too wordy, and visually unpleasing. I edited the script in a manner so as to (in my opinion) remain faithful to Steve's idea, and sent it to Steve, asking him to draw additional art where blank balloons then stood. Steve believed that the story worked best the way he originally had it written and asked me to restore the page to its original form. I complied, and that is how you read it. I do not feel that it is within my right to alter a creator's work to that extent without permission.

And yet I also want ECLIPSE MONTHLY to have stories which are well-scripted and visually interesting. I told Steve that beginning with STATIC no. 4, I wanted to edit his scripts into what I felt would be a more readable form. I suggested that if we could not come to an agreement on STATIC, perhaps it would be best to discontinue the feature and hopefully work together on a different strip some time in the future. Steve decided that he did not want me to edit his scripts, and informed me that he would discontinue STATIC in ECLIPSE MONTHLY.

And that, folks, is the story. And while it can sometimes turn out to be difficult losing a strip like STATIC, we feel that the Eclipse method of publishing is the best. We cannot force Steve to change things as we see fit, and Steve cannot force us to publish work we are not happy with. You can't ask for a more equitable situation.

Dear Editor,

I can't say that I'd miss Trina Robbins' plodding adaptation of Sax Rohmer's **Dope**, Steve Ditko's preachy Mr. A send off, **Static**, Doug Wildey's pedestrian western, **Rio**, or Marshall Rogers' erratically paced and lettered funny-animal series, **Cap'n Quick and A Foozle**, but I would miss B. C. Boyer's **Masked Man** very much.

"Herbie" was a wonderfully offbeat story so reminiscent of those great Simon and Kirby kid titles of the 1940s.

Jeffrey Lowndes
809 Sunset Street
Scranton, PA 18509

B. C. says thanks for the kind words, Jeffrey. And I add that I'm sorry you don't enjoy the other strips. Because you're in such a minority, I can only hope that you've warmed up to the other features by now.

By the way, you may be interested to know that because of scheduling difficulties with the old ECLIPSE MAGAZINE, B. C. wrote and drew "Herbie" BEFORE he did "The Bank Robbery" in EM no. 1!

Next issue, B.C. wraps up "The Incredible Seven" plotline from SABRE, as Dick, Barney and Drekston eat hamburghers! Plus, the return of RIO, and a surprise third feature. All with a Doug Wildey cover!

See you then! — Dean Mullaney

In a time when days are gold, the night is ruled by magic

CARLOS McLLYR
Adventures of The Californio

© 1983 Moonfire Productions

by Christy Marx
and Peter Ledger

a three-part story beginning in ECLIPSE MONTHLY *no. 6*